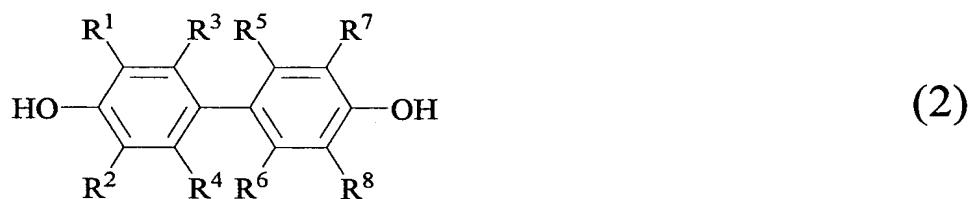
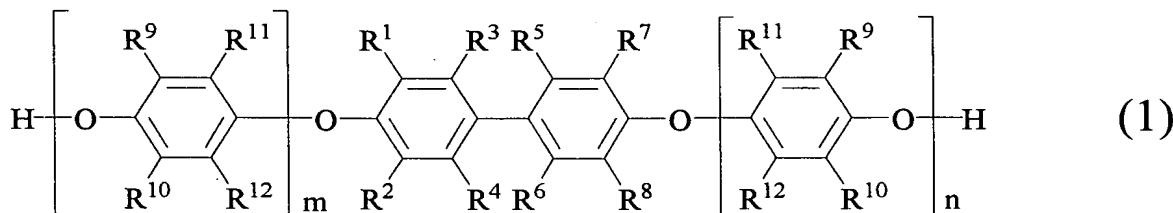


Claims

1. A process for the production of a bifunctional phenylene ether oligomer compound having no amine adduct
 5 represented by the formula (1), which process comprises oxidatively polymerizing a bivalent phenol of the formula (2) and a monovalent phenol of the formula (3) in the presence of a copper-containing catalyst and a tertiary amine, a secondary amine having a secondary alkyl group, a tertiary alkyl group or an aryl group, or a mixture of both,
 10 [Chemical formula 1]



wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^7 , R^8 , R^9 and R^{10} are the same or different and represent a halogen atom, an alkyl group having 6 or less carbon atoms or a phenyl group, R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^{11} and R^{12} are the same or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group having 6 or less carbon atoms

or a phenyl group, and each of m and n is an integer of from 0 to 25, provided that at least one of a and b is not 0.

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein the tertiary amine, the secondary amine having a secondary alkyl group, a tertiary alkyl group or an aryl group or the mixture of both in an amount of 20 % to 70 % based on the total amount thereof is charged into a reactor in advance and the balance of 30 to 80 % is added with the advance of the reaction.

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3. A process according to claim 1, wherein the copper-containing catalyst in an amount of 20 to 100 % based on the total amount thereof is charged in a reactor in advance and the balance of 0 to 80 % is added with the advance of the reaction.

15 4. A process according to claim 1, wherein the monovalent phenol of the formula (3) is 2,6-dimethylphenol alone or a mixture of 2,6-dimethylphenol and 20 2,3,6-trimethylphenol.

25 5. A process according to claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of the bivalent phenol of the formula (2) and the monovalent phenol of the formula (3) is 1:1 to 1:15.

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